



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
1590 ADAMSON PARKWAY, SUITE 200  
MORROW, GEORGIA 30260-1777**

December 29, 2017

Regulatory Branch  
SAS-2016-00412

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE  
Savannah District/State of Georgia**

The Savannah District has received an application for a Department of the Army Permit, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1344), as follows:

Application Number: SAS-2016-00412

Applicant: Mr. Tim Allen  
Forsyth County  
110 East Main Street  
Cumming, Georgia 30040

Agent: Mr. Alex Levy  
VHB, LLC  
1355 Peachtree Street NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

Location of Proposed Work: The proposed Ronald Reagan Boulevard extension project starts at McFarland Parkway and ends at Majors Road, City of Cumming, Forsyth County, Georgia (Latitude 34.133, Longitude -84.205).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Forsyth County is proposing to construct the Ronald Reagan Boulevard extension roadway. Over the past three decades, rapid residential and commercial growth in the County has driven an increase in traffic volumes on area roadways. As traffic congestion has increased on GA 400, north-south mobility and connectivity within Forsyth County has suffered. To address the need for improved mobility and provide a viable travel option to GA 400, Forsyth County has planned for and constructed most segments of a parallel reliever roadway, adjacent to GA 400. The existing parallel reliever, located on the east side of GA 400, begins at McGinnis Ferry Road on the Forsyth/Fulton County line and provides a four-lane arterial roadway, parallel to GA 400, for almost 12 miles to Bald Ridge Marina Road, on the north side of the City of Cumming. Except for an incomplete three-mile segment between McFarland Pkwy and Major Road, this roadway provides a continuous, four-lane, arterial roadway adjacent to GA 400. All existing segments of this roadway are named Ronald Reagan Blvd.

Impacts to aquatic resources would include the discharge of fill material within approximately 13.9 acre of forested, scrub/shrub, and emergent palustrine wetlands; 0.09 acre of open water; 661 linear feet of intermittent stream; and 1,146 linear feet of perennial stream. To offset the proposed impacts, the applicant proposes to purchase 156.45 wetland mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank(s) and 11,643 stream mitigation credits from a USACE approved compensatory mitigation bank that services the project area and provides appropriate functional replacement credits.

The applicant's stated purpose is "To connect the three-mile segment between McFarland Pkwy and Major Road to be able to use Ronald Reagan Blvd as a continuous, four-lane, arterial thoroughfare as a local and adjacent alternative to the GA 400 freeway."

In order for the applicant to minimize impacts to jurisdictional waters, project engineers identified feasible aspects of the project design where the width of the roadway could be minimized while maintaining acceptable, safety-based design standards. The following are design changes employed by the applicant to reduce the footprint of the roadway:

- Reduce 24' raised median to 20' raised median = 4' reduction in corridor width
- Reduce 19.5' shoulders to 16' shoulders = 7' reduction in corridor width
- Reduce all 2.5' curb and gutter to 2' curb and gutter = 1' reduction in corridor width
- Use 2:1 tie slopes instead of 4:1 slopes = 10' reduction in corridor width per side assuming 5' fill height.

## **BACKGROUND**

This Joint Public Notice announces a request for authorizations from both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Georgia. The applicant's proposed work may also require local governmental approval.

## **STATE OF GEORGIA**

Water Quality Certification: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, intends to certify this project at the end of 30 days in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, which is required for a Federal Permit to conduct activity in, on, or adjacent to the waters of the State of Georgia. Copies of the application and supporting documents relative to a specific application will be available for review and copying at the office of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, Watershed Protection Branch, 2 MLK Jr. Drive, Suite 418, Atlanta, Georgia 30334, during regular office hours. A copier machine is available for public use at a charge of 10 cents per page. Any person who desires to comment, object, or request a public hearing relative to State Water Quality Certification must do so within 30 days of the State's receipt of application in writing and state the reasons or basis of objections or request for a

hearing. The application can be reviewed in the Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, 1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200, Morrow, Georgia 30260-1777.

State-owned Property and Resources: The applicant may also require assent from the State of Georgia, which may be in the form of a license, easement, lease, permit or other appropriate instrument.

## **U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

The Savannah District must consider the purpose and the impacts of the applicant's proposed work, prior to a decision on issuance of a Department of the Army Permit.

Cultural Resources Assessment: The applicant conducted a comprehensive Historical Resource Survey, dated October 2017, as well as findings of an Archaeological Survey dated October 2017, within the project area. Based on the results of the surveys, the applicant believes there are no cultural resources or historic properties within the project area. Additional coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office may be required.

Endangered Species: A query of the IPAC data resulted in the endangered Cherokee Darter (*Etheostoma scotti*), the endangered amber darter (*Percina antesella*), the threatened Etowah Darter (*Etheostoma Etowahae*), the threatened Northern Long-Eared Bat (*Myotis Septentrionalis*), and the threatened white fringeless orchid (*Platanthera Integrilabia*), as having a historic/potential range in Forsyth County (<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/gettingStarted/map>). One State of Georgia protected species, the Chattahoochee crayfish (*Cambarus howardi*), was listed as having potential occurrence within the project area (<http://www.georgiawildlife.com/node/2717>).

The applicant conducted pedestrian surveys for threatened and endangered species along the proposed roadway extension corridor to determine the potential occurrence of animal and plants species (or their preferred habitats) currently listed as threatened or endangered by state and federal regulations. Based on existing site conditions and habitats observed during the field survey, the applicant determined that the project area does not or is unlikely to support any individuals or populations of threatened or endangered species listed in Forsyth County, Georgia. The applicant has proposed to include a seasonal tree clearing restriction to limit clearing of all forested habitat within the study area to winter months (October 15 to March 30), when northern long-eared bats are not expected to be present in forested habitats.

Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.), we request information from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service; or, any other interested party, on whether any species listed or proposed for listing may be present in the area.

Public Interest Review: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Consideration of Public Comments: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Application of Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines: The proposed activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States. The Savannah District's evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public hearing. The decision whether to hold a public hearing is at the discretion of the District Engineer, or his designated appointee, based on the need for additional substantial information necessary in evaluating the proposed project.

Comment Period: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army Permit should submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Elisha A. Brannon, 1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200, Morrow, Georgia 30260-1777, no later than 30 days from the date of this notice. Please refer to the applicant's name and the application number in your comments. If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Elisha A. Brannon, Project Manager, Piedmont Section at (678) 804-5226.

List of Figures

1. Project Location Map
2. Aerial Map
3. FEMA Floodplain Maps
4. Aquatic Resources Impact Map
5. Cross-Sections

Figure 1: Project Location Map

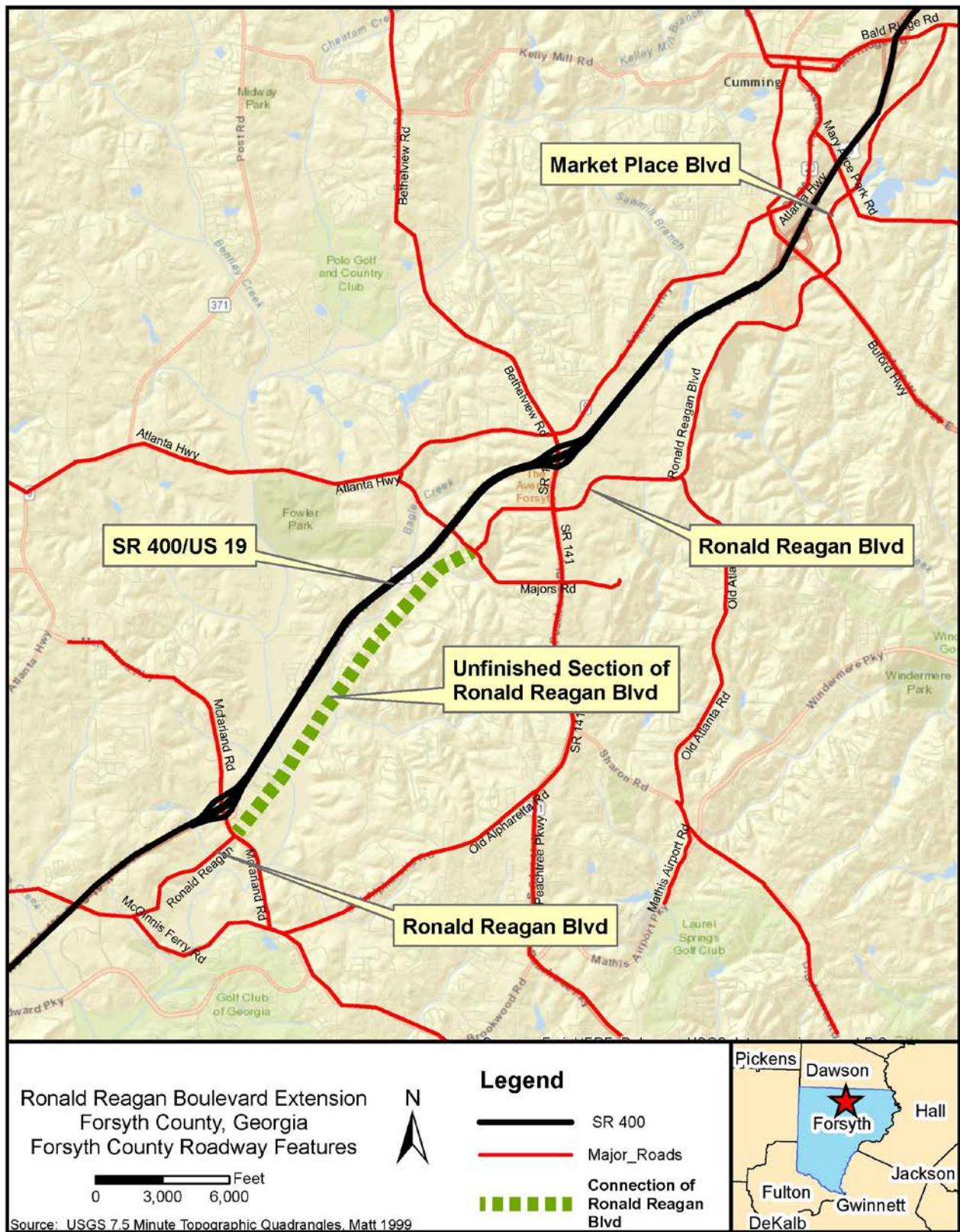
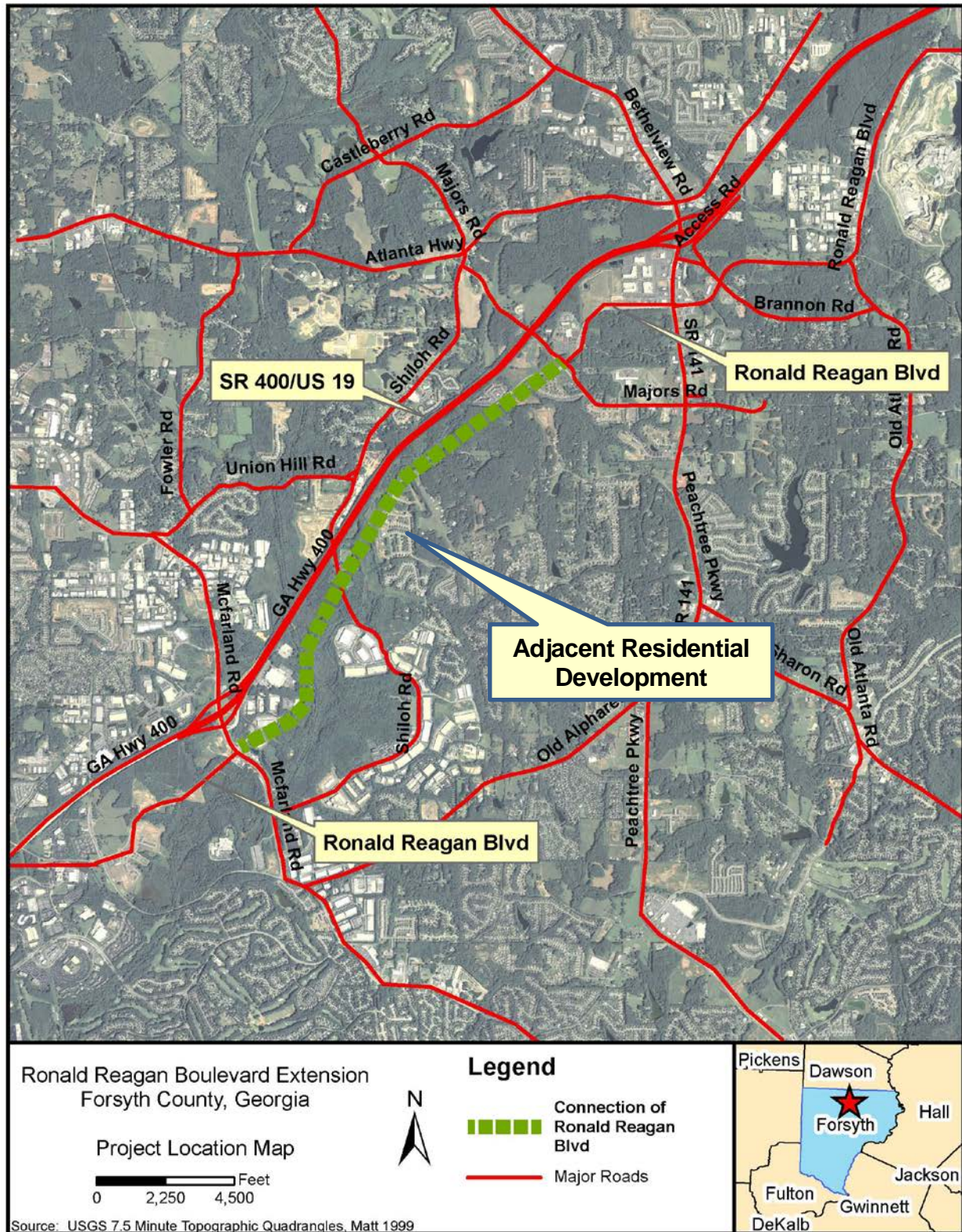
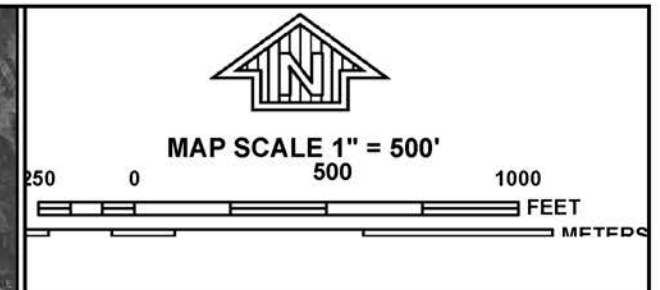
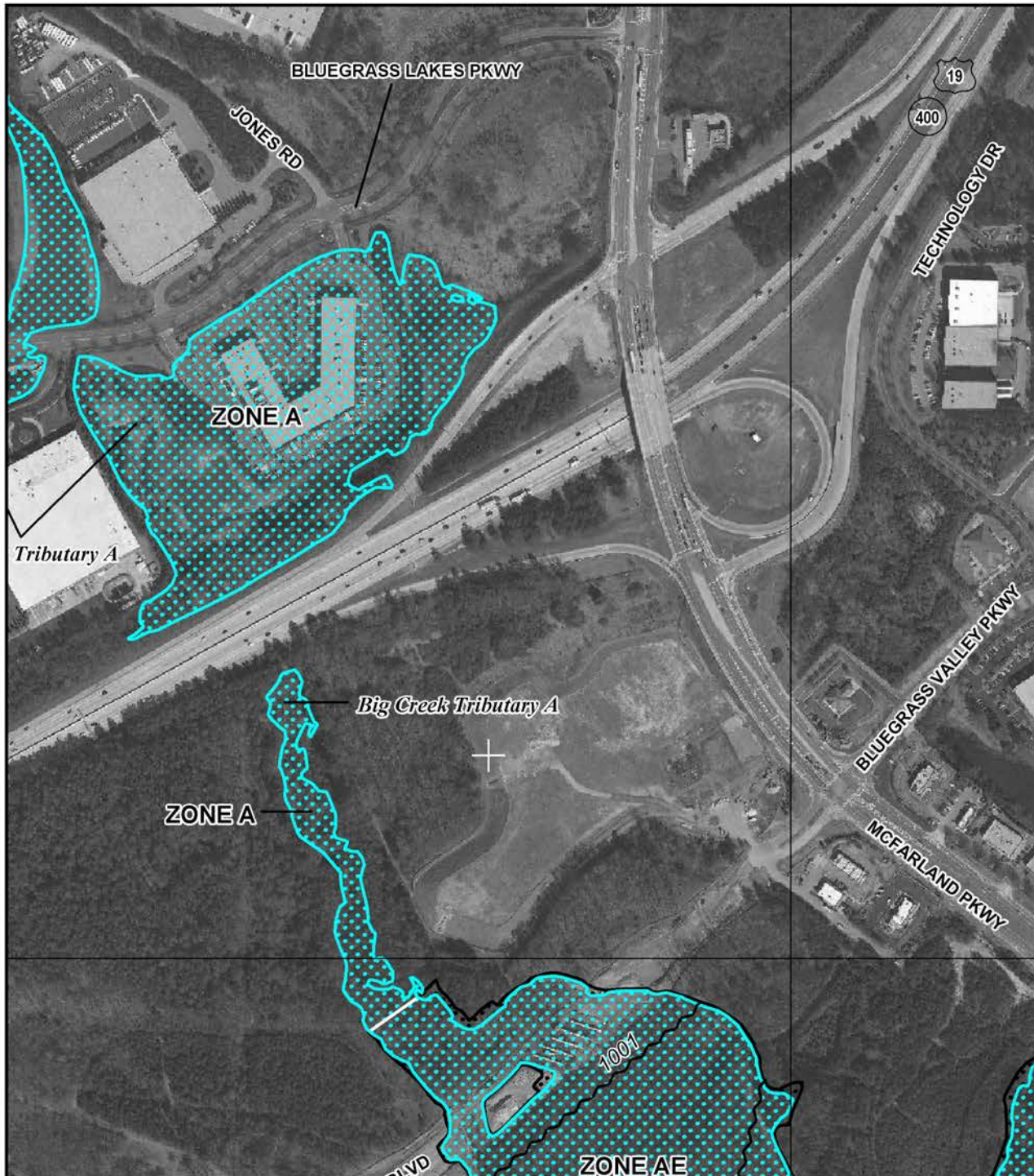




Figure 3: Project Map







NFIP

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

PANEL 0226F

## FIRM

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP  
 FORSYTH COUNTY,  
 GEORGIA  
 AND INCORPORATED AREAS

PANEL 226 OF 261

(SEE MAP INDEX FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT)

CONTAINS:

COMMUNITY	NUMBER	PANEL	SUFFIX
FORSYTH COUNTY	130312	0226	F

Notice to User: The **Map Number** shown below should be used when placing map orders; the **Community Number** shown above should be used on insurance applications for the subject community.



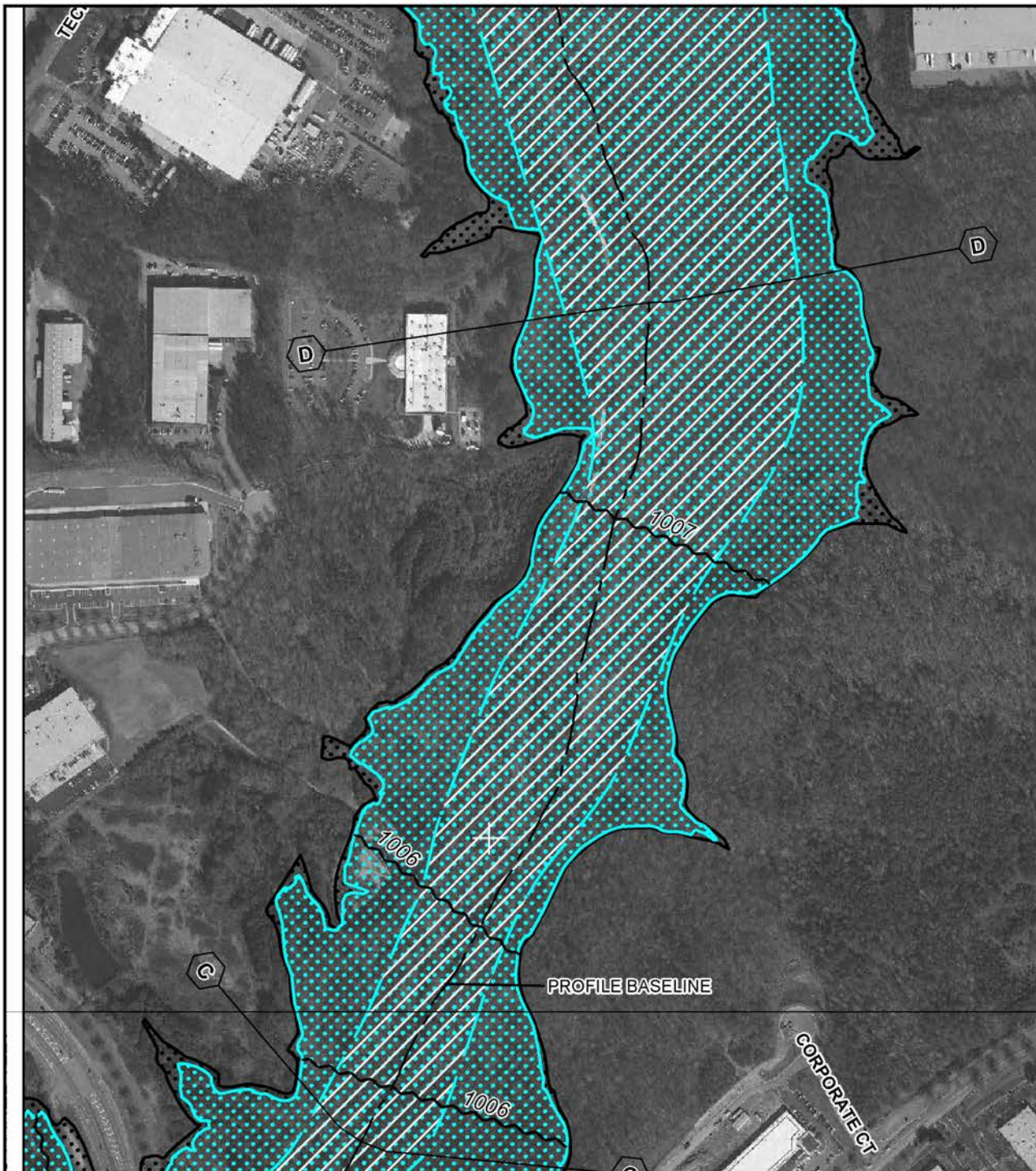
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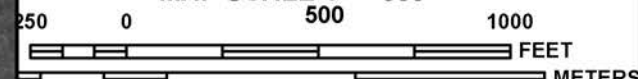
Federal Emergency Management Agency

This is an official copy of a portion of the above referenced flood map. It was extracted using F-MIT On-Line. This map does not reflect changes or amendments which may have been made subsequent to the date on the title block. For the latest product information about National Flood Insurance Program flood maps check the FEMA Flood Map Store at [www.msc.fema.gov](http://www.msc.fema.gov)





MAP SCALE 1" = 500'



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NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

PANEL 0227F

## FIRM

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP  
FORSYTH COUNTY,  
GEORGIA  
AND INCORPORATED AREAS

PANEL 227 OF 261  
(SEE MAP INDEX FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT)

CONTAINS:

COMMUNITY	NUMBER	PANEL	SUFFIX
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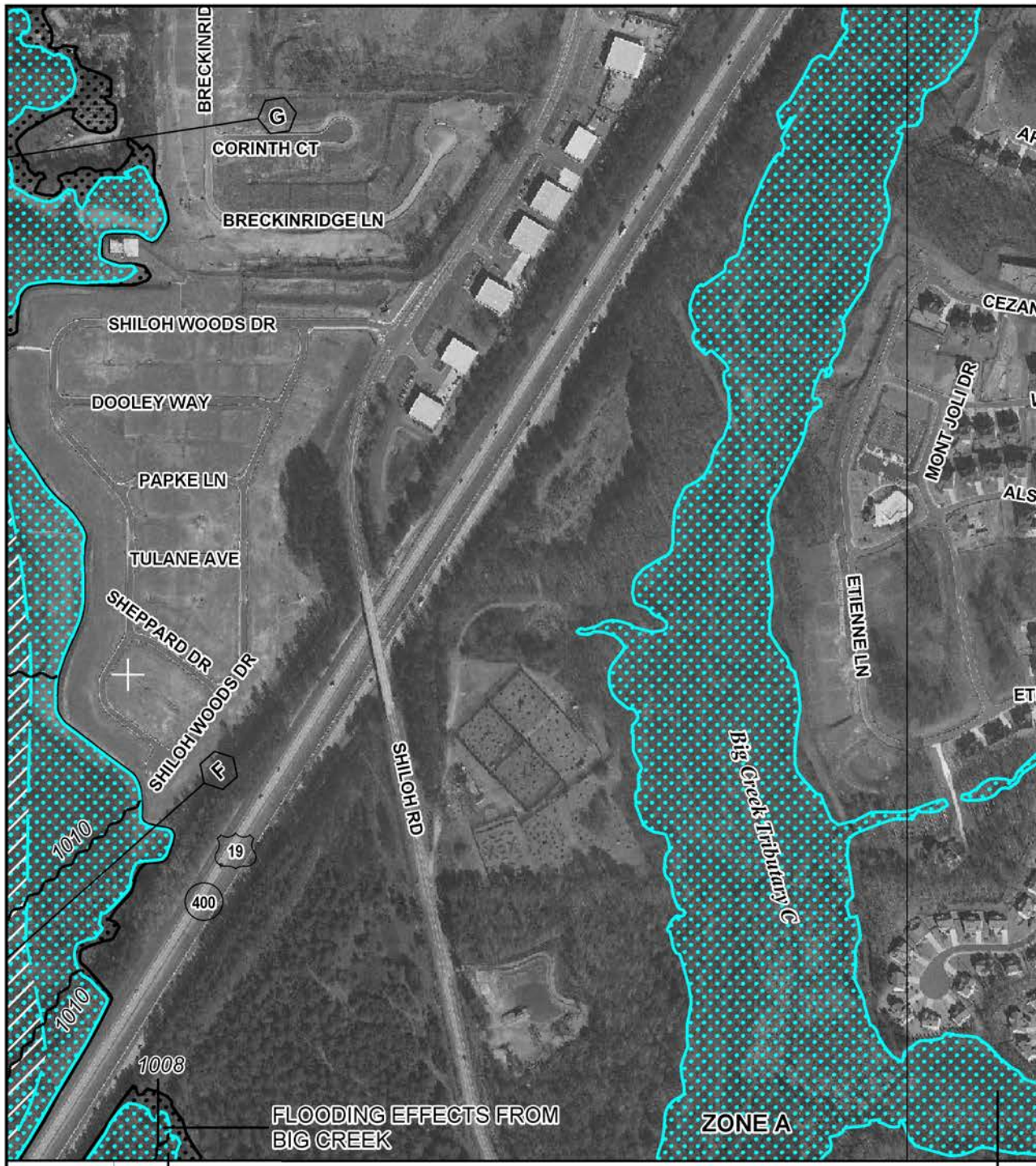
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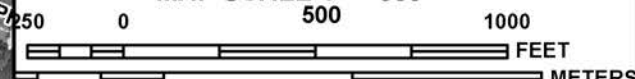
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MAP SCALE 1" = 500'



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NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

PANEL 0139F

## FIRM

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP  
 FORSYTH COUNTY,  
 GEORGIA  
 AND INCORPORATED AREAS

PANEL 139 OF 261

(SEE MAP INDEX FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT)

CONTAINS:

COMMUNITY	NUMBER	PANEL	SUFFIX
FORSYTH COUNTY	130312	0139	F

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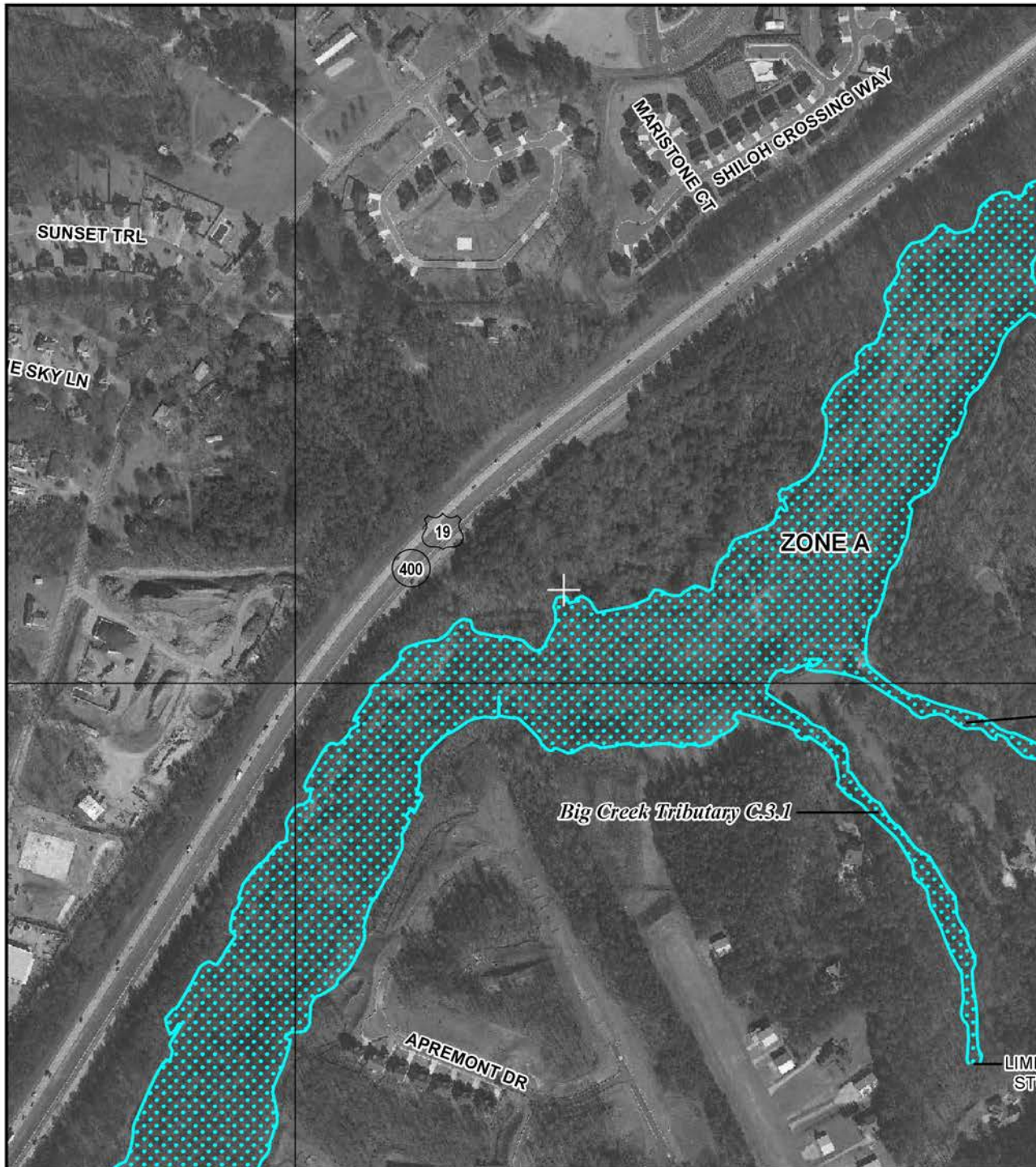
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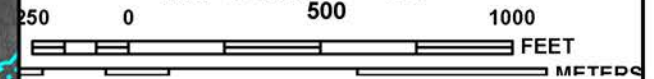
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MAP SCALE 1" = 500'



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NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

PANEL 0139F

# FIRM

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP  
 FORSYTH COUNTY,  
 GEORGIA  
 AND INCORPORATED AREAS

PANEL 139 OF 261  
 (SEE MAP INDEX FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT)

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FORSYTH COUNTY	130312	0139	F

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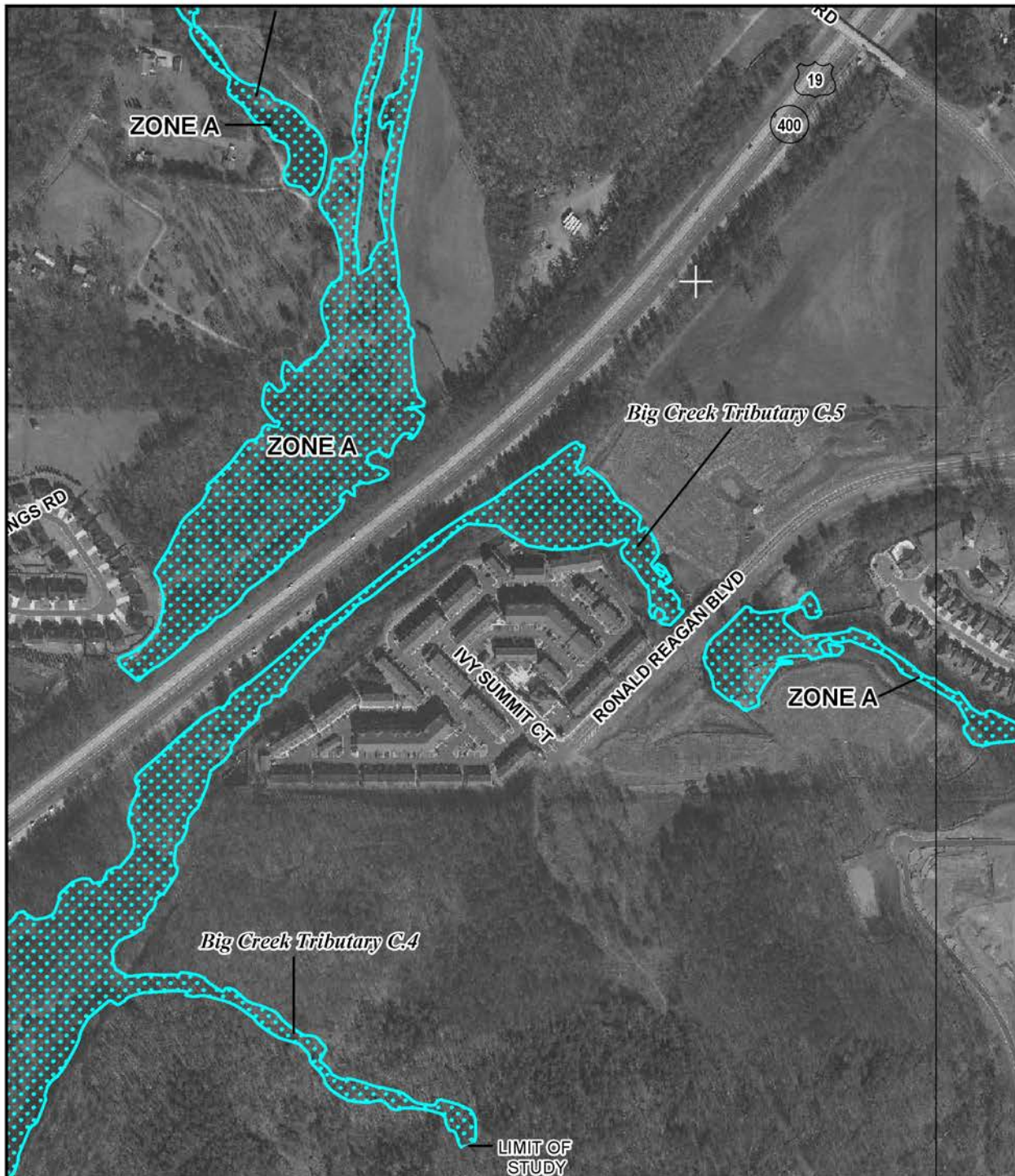
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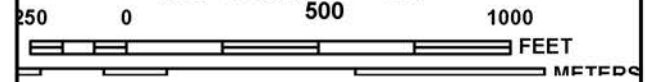




JOINS PANEL 0143



MAP SCALE 1" = 500'



NFIP

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

PANEL 0139F

**FIRM**  
FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP  
FORSYTH COUNTY,  
GEORGIA  
AND INCORPORATED AREAS

PANEL 139 OF 261  
(SEE MAP INDEX FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT)

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FORSYTH COUNTY	130312	0139	F

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**MAP REVISED**  
MARCH 4, 2013

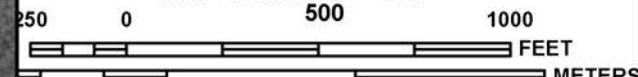
Federal Emergency Management Agency

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MAP SCALE 1" = 500'



NFP

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

PANEL 0143F

## FIRM

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP  
FORSYTH COUNTY,  
GEORGIA  
AND INCORPORATED AREAS

PANEL 143 OF 261  
(SEE MAP INDEX FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT)

CONTAINS:

COMMUNITY	NUMBER	PANEL	SUFFIX
FORSYTH COUNTY	130312	0143	F

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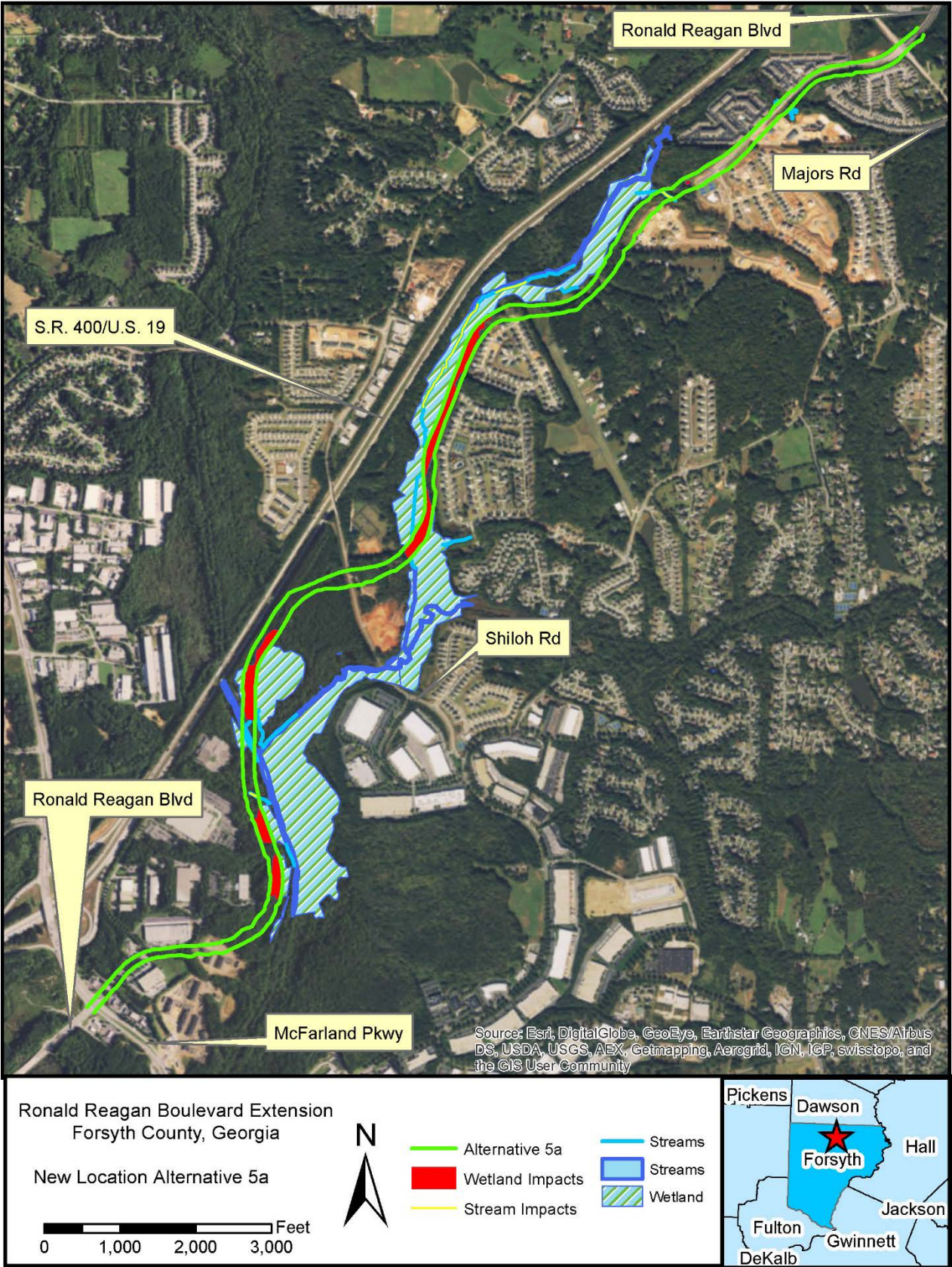
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MARCH 4, 2013

Federal Emergency Management Agency

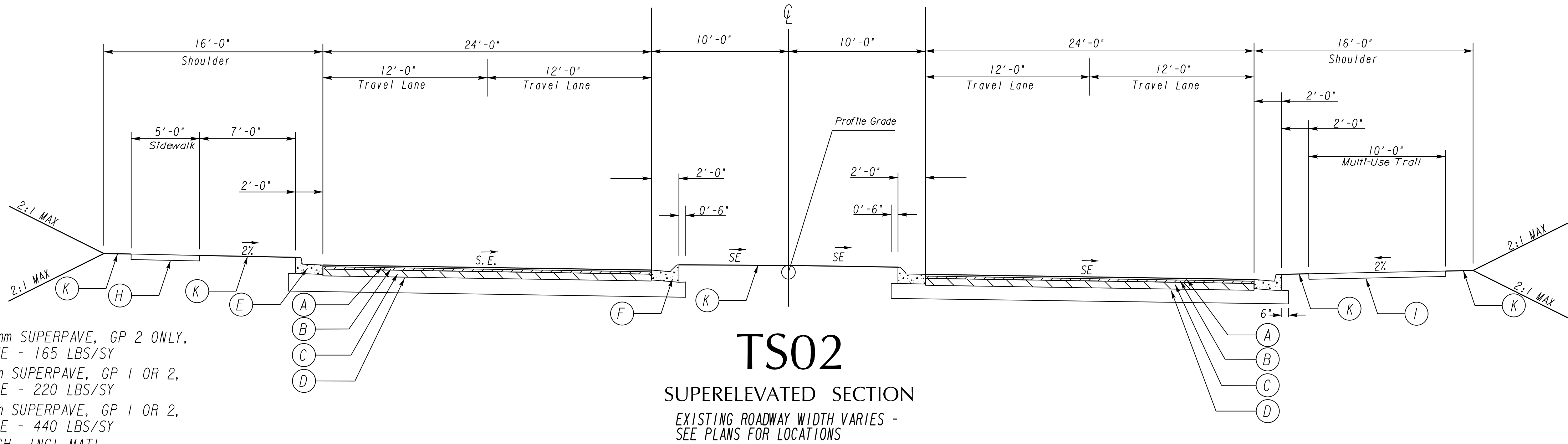
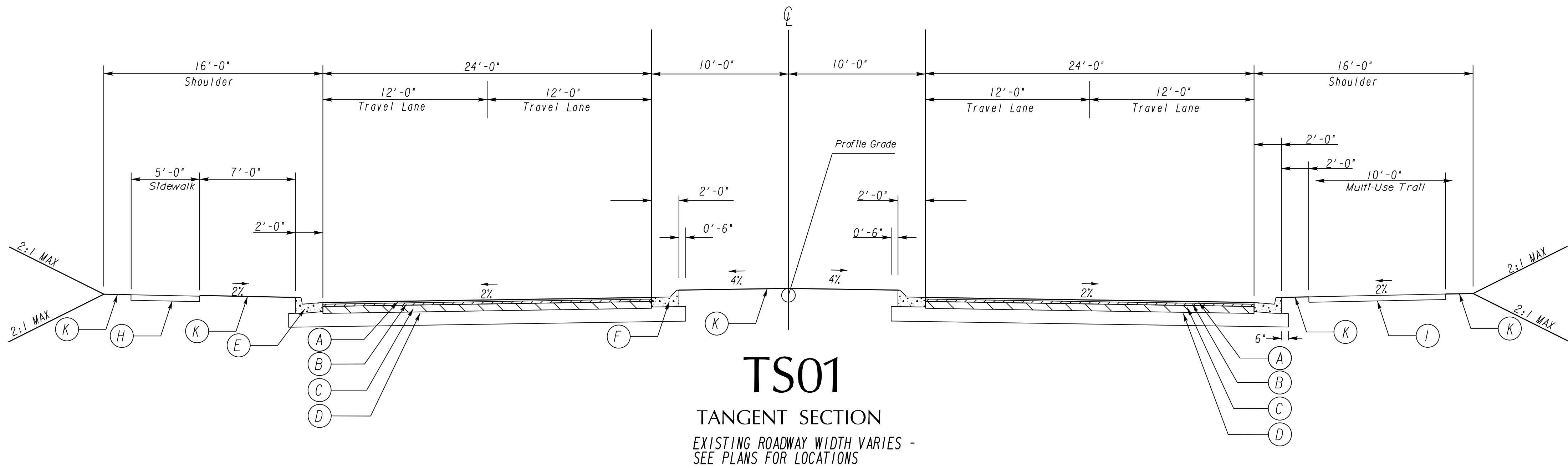
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Figure 22: New Location Alternative 5A Wetland and Stream Impacts







- (A) - RECYCLED ASPH CONC 9.5 mm SUPERPAVE, GP 2 ONLY, INCL BITUM MATL & H LIME - 165 LBS/SY
- (B) - RECYCLED ASPH CONC 19 mm SUPERPAVE, GP 1 OR 2, INCL BITUM MATL & H LIME - 220 LBS/SY
- (C) - RECYCLED ASPH CONC 25 mm SUPERPAVE, GP 1 OR 2, INCL BITUM MATL & H LIME - 440 LBS/SY
- (D) - GR AGGR BASE CRS, 10 INCH, INCL MATL
- (E) - CONC. CURB AND GUTTER, 8" x 24", TYPE 2
- (F) - CONC. CURB AND GUTTER, 8" x 24", TYPE 7
- (G) - MILL ASPH CONC, 1.5 IN
- (H) - CONC SIDEWALK, 4 IN
- (I) - CONC SIDEWALK, 6 IN
- (J) - CONC MEDIAN
- (K) - SOD, BERMUDA

\*MEDIAN  
0'-8' - CONC MEDIAN PAVING  
8'+ - BERMUDA SOD

SEE ROADWAY PLANS FOR SUPERELEVATION RATES AND TRANSITIONS.

MAXIMUM SUPERELEVATION RATE IS 4.00%

NOTE: FOR METHOD OF SUPERELEVATION SEE CONSTR LAYOUT SHEETS-CURVE DATA. LOCATIONS OF NORMAL CROWN & FULL S.E. NOTED ON CONSTR LAYOUT SHEETS.

CURB & GUTTER ON HIGH SIDE OF SE TO SLOPE SAME AS PAVEMENT

SHOULDER MAY BE GRADED AWAY FROM ROADWAY TO FACILITATE THE SLOPE TIE TO EXISTING GROUND.

11/07/2017 1:45:26 PM  
**Preliminary**